

REMARKS

Claim Amendments and Status of the Claims

Claims 1-3 were previously cancelled. Claims 4-15 are currently pending; claims 4, 5, and 14 are currently amended.

The Applicants reserve their right to pursue any of the canceled subject matter in a continuing application.

No new matter has been added by these claim amendments.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 4-15 currently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ruan et al. (CA 131:303449), Mascbuchi et al. (CA 59:75249), Avetisyan et al. (CA 128:748885), Zhao et al. (*J. Med. Chem.* **1997**, 40, 242-249), Schmitt et al. (USP 3,325,515), Morgan et al. (CA 133:55643), Sullivan et al. (CA 38:5011), Poetzsch et al. (CA: 127:130379), and Cilag Ltd. (CA 51:5827).

In response, the Applicants have amended the claims to remove any overlap with the cited references. As a result, the Applicants submit that the rejections based on 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) are moot, and they request that the rejections be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that all requirements of patentability have been met. Allowance of the claims and passage of the case to issue are therefore respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe a discussion of this matter would be helpful, she is invited to telephone the undersigned at (312) 913-2114.

Respectfully submitted,

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